filed November 11, 1999, claims priority from U.S. Provisional Application 60/122,747, filed
February 26, 1999.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

5.   (Once Amended)   A recombinant host cell comprising the recombinant [vecotor] vector of claim 4.

9.   (Once Amended)   The isolated nucleic acid of claim 2 wherein the [polynucleotide] nucleic acid hybridizes under stringent conditions with the nucleotide sequence shown in Figure 1A or 1B.

Please add the following claims:

10.   (New) A method for diagnosing squamous cell carcinoma in a subject, comprising:
      determining the presence, absence, or amount of expression of the DESC1 gene in a tissue sample obtained from the subject, wherein the diagnosis of squamous cell carcinoma is based on the presence, absence, or amount of expression of the DESC 1 gene in the sample.

11.   (New) The method of claim 10 wherein the tissue sample is an epithelial tissue sample from the head, neck, oral mucosa, tonsils or skin of the subject.

12.   (New) The method of claim 10 wherein the level of DESC 1 gene expression is determined using a nucleic acid probe which hybridizes to a transcript of the DESC 1 gene.

13.   (New) The method of claim 10 wherein the level of expression of the DESC 1 gene is determined using a polymerase chain reaction and primers which are complementary to specific regions of the DESC 1 gene.

14.   (New) The method of claim 10 wherein the level of expression of the DESC 1 gene is determined by assaying for the presence, or absence, or a change in the levels of the protein encoded by the DESC 1 gene in the sample.

15.   (New) The method of claim 14 wherein an antibody which is immunospecific for the protein encoded by the DESC 1 gene is employed in the assay.

16.   (New) A method for diagnosing prostate carcinoma in a subject, comprising: